

**Minutes of the Annual Ridgmont Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 2nd June 2020
starting at 7.30pm.**

In line with emergency Coronavirus Government Legislation, the Parish Council will not be holding face to face meetings for the foreseeable future. This virtual meeting is being held via Zoom Conference facility.

Present: Cllrs P Fewings, H Francis, P Francis, R Kemeny & M Spearing, Lyn Lyman – Clerk. No residents were present.

In attendance: CB Cllrs S Clark & R Morris.

349. To elect Chairman:

Cllr Spearing was nominated by Cllr H Francis. This was seconded by Cllr Kemeny with all in agreement. There being no further nominations Cllr Spearing accepted and took the chair.

The Declaration of acceptance form will be signed at the next face to face meeting.

350. To Receive apologies for absence:

Apologies were received from: CB Cllr K Matthews.

351. To elect Vice Chairman:

Cllr P Francis was nominated by Cllr Spearing. This was seconded by Cllr Kemeny with all in agreement. There being no further nominations, Cllr P Francis accepted.

352. To nominate Portfolio Holders:

Planning:	Cllr P Francis & Spearing
Communications & Consultation:	Cllr P Francis
Village Environment:	Cllrs Kemeny & Spearing
Traffic & Highways/Street Lighting:	Cllrs Kemeny & Spearing
Play/Recreation/Cenotaph:	Cllrs Fewings & Spearing
Ridgmont Village Charity (PC Representative):	Cllr Spearing
(Cllr H Francis represents the Parish Council and Cllr P Francis is a trustee)	
Development and Strategy (inc Parish plan):	All Cllrs as a group
All Saints Church:	Cllr H Francis
Webmaster:	The Clerk

353. Parish Councillor Vacancies (2):

Following the uncontested election, there are vacancies for two Parish Councillors. Every effort is to be made to fill the vacancies.

An article is also to be included on the Whats App group which was set up to assist with Covid 19.

Action: MS

354. Open Forum:

Residents will have the chance to raise anything relevant to Parish Council business but they will not be able to discuss the subject more than once. A maximum of 2 minutes per subject will be allowed.

The Clerk said that the notice board could benefit from a bit of maintenance. The left hand door doesn't lock properly. Cllr Spearing will let Tony know. **Action: MS**

355. Declaration of Members' Interests:

a) **Declaration of member's interest of a non-pecuniary nature:** (Having membership of a club, charity etc or a close relationship):

Cllr H Francis: PCC Secretary & Treasurer, Representative on All Saints Church and Trustee on Ridgmont Charity;

Cllr P Francis: PCC and Trustee of Ridgmont Charity.

Cllr M Spearing: Trustee of The Greensand Trust and PCC; Governor of Aspley Guise School and Parish Council representative on Ridgmont Charity.

b) **Declaration of members interest of a pecuniary nature:** (Having a financial bearing on a member or their spouse/partner):

Cllr Spearing and Mr Nicholas Spearing: Land Owner.

356. To Approve Minutes of the previous meeting:

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to accept the Minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 23rd January 2020. They will be signed at the next face to face meeting.

357. To discuss Matters Arising:

Ridgmont Lower School: A letter was sent opposing the closure of Ridgmont Lower School.

Grasscutting: A meeting was held between Angela Humphreys (CBC), Cllr Spearing and The Clerk. The Clerk proved that CBC should have been contributing towards the grasscutting. This was agreed and CBC sent a schedule advising that we should have received £187.01 each year. They agreed to backdate this and we have received a contribution covering 3 years (£561.03).

The hedge on Station Road has been cut back but it was not sure whether this had been cut back far enough.

358. To receive correspondence:

BMK News Volume 18.

Playsafety had advised they would be carrying out the Play Area Safety Inspection during May.

One of the street lighting columns in Lydds Hill (opposite No 6) gives practically no light because it is surrounded by Leylandii etc. The column leans slightly backwards too. This was reported to the street lighting contractor who has said: the column does lean slightly backwards and has done so for many years. He has taken a photo and sent it to us. He says the column is very solid in the ground and will certainly not go anywhere. Now that the hedgerow has been cut back, it shows the lean. He fitted a new lamp to hopefully improve the output.

However the 3 lights along Lydds Hill are old mercury and could be improved by upgrading to LED. In fact there are still 9 mercury type lamps in the village, bearing in mind mercury lamps became obsolete in 2014 maybe the future of these nine should be considered??

Unfortunately, the columns along Lydds Hill are old concrete which means for them to be able to accept a modern day LED lantern they have to have a galvanised sleeve fitted first therefore pushing the cost up a little.

To supply and install a sleeve and new LED lantern, including rewire of street light would cost £365.00each + vat. Total for all three = £1095.00 + vat. It was agreed this should be a future agenda item. Provision could be made on the next Precept request.

CBC Covid-19 related posters. Cllr Kemeny agreed to put one on the village facebook.

Action: RK

359. **To accept Payments:**

March: Balance as at 9th March 2020 £1,338.62.

Received in March: CBC Grasscutting contribution 561.03, £1000 contribution

Expenditure:

Mrs L Lyman Annual Expenses	40.75	100724
Andy Muskett Ltd 4 th ¼ st ltg maintenance	110.10	100726
Mrs Lyman Clerks Salary February	357.55	s/o
Mrs Lyman Clerks Salary March	357.55	s/o
E.on Monthly Energy Charge February	172.18	d/d
E.on Monthly Energy Charge March	161.07	d/d
	<hr/>	
	1199.20	

Balance as at 29th May 2020 £17,653.88

Received in April: Precept 17,544.00, VAT 472.85

Expenditure:

R Purcell Mole Treatment (2)		92.00	100725
Bedford Estates Recreation Ground Rental		20.00	100727
HMRC PAYE 4 th ¼		168.40	100728
NAB Grasscutting 2574		530.00	100729
BATPC Annual Affiliation Fees		93.00	100730
Repayment of March contribution		1000.00	100731
Jed Gibson Website Set up		50.00	100732
Mrs Lyman Clerks Salary – April	371.05	357.55	s/o
Mrs Lyman Clerks salary – May	371.05	357.55	s/o
e.on Monthly Energy Charge – April		172.18	s/o
e.on Monthly Energy Charge – May		166.62	s/o
		<u>2957.80</u>	

360. **To receive Reports:**

CB Cllr Matthews: No report available.

CB Cllr Clark: Parking: Due to Bedford Estates having closed the Safari Park car park, villages have been swamped by visitors parking in every conceivable space and using the footpaths within the Safari Park. CB Cllr Clark had visited the village and met with the Highways Officer Mark MacDonald. Cones and tape were immediately put up which had been very effective. Unfortunately parking issues have been pushed further into the village.

To help the problems further options are:

- To have temporary double yellow lines (under Covid 19 Emergency Regulations).
- Cut grass verges to allow for parking.
- Have signs in the village directing parking outside of the village.
- Eversholt Road, possibly more cones/tape up to 30mph sign.

- Maybe have double yellow lines throughout the village and have a residents permit system. Mark MacDonald was going to check on this though as it may not be plausible.

It was agreed to try cutting the grass out of the village by the park wall and to take a reasonable approach to keeping parking out of the village.

CBC has said the cones and tape can stay in position for several weeks. It is hoped that when lockdown restrictions have eased, it should relieve the parking issues.

A small stretch of yellow lining will be done on Wednesday night on the bend by the Estate Gate. (This will also not be permanent).

An Ice Cream van has been parking both in the park entrance and along the wall in Husborne Crawley (on the double yellow lines).

It was noted that the litter bins have been full and overflowing. Mark is to get them emptied.

All procedures need to be reviewed on a regular basis. Hopefully the Safari Park car park can be re-opened soon.

Special thanks were given to CB Cllr Clark and CBC Highways for all their help. Cllr Spearing will send a letter of appreciation to Mark MacDonald. **Action: MS**

A traffic regulation order (TRO) has been published for outside schools once they re-open and legal notices have been displayed.

Regarding the MK Consultation which has been ongoing, CB Cllr Clark thought we need to be optimistic.

CB Cllr Morris: Nothing further to add.

Planning Applications: Cllr P Francis:
CB/TCA/20/00151 61 High Street, no objections.

CB/20/01276/Full & 1277/LB Deerview, Segenhoe. The parish council were not happy with this application. CBC has said that views are being requested from the Conservation Officer, but as we have not heard any results, CB Cllr Clark agreed to follow this up.

PCC: Cllr H Francis: said no annual PCC meeting as yet due to Covid 19 lockdown. It may be held in September. No fund raising activities have been able to be held and the financial situation is of great concern.

Ridgmont Charity: A meeting was held recently, and 2 new trustees have been appointed. The Charity has been advised that there are now possible opportunities to progress the object of the Charity which they are trying to progress.

361. **Local Plan Update:**

CB Cllr Clark said that as she is the Lead Member for Children's Services at CBC, it was difficult for her to become involved in the debate on the future of Ridgmont Lower School as she had a

conflict of interest. The Have Your Say Consultation into the future of Ridgmont Lower School and the other schools in the Woburn Sands and surrounding area closed on the 15th of April. The future of the 3 Estate lower schools will be the subject of a further consultation once the location of the new primary school is known. A feasibility study is being carried out to assess the options, and this includes Ridgmont Lower School as a potential location. The new consultation is likely to take place in the Autumn.

CBC has done more work on Feasibility Appraisal which has now been published. Cllr Spearing is at present going through this document. She thought the news is not good concerning the Greensand Ridge, M1 Junction 13 etc. SE2 is still included regarding employment. No apparent new evidence has been provided. It was disappointing that no independent assessment had been carried out on various issues. There was no mention of lighting as pollution and no assessment of M1 junction 13 has been done.

Cllr Spearing is extremely disappointed so far, although she is still reading it. No acknowledgment has been made of the work which the Parish Council had presented previously.

The Parish Council had set aside an amount of money which we were hoping not to have to use regarding the Local Plan, **however it was agreed that this was now a necessity. Ward Councillors' advice was to engage professionals to present evidence at the next Inquiry.** Cllr Spearing suggested that we employ Francis Caldwell to help further with his expertise. If acceptable, Cllr Spearing said she could give Francis Caldwell a budget to work to. There would be no need to re-visit the whole plan just the sustainability report. A full discussion took place on finance and how to raise any outstanding funding which may be required. This is the last stage of the enquiry. It was proposed by Cllr Spearing to take this forward. This was seconded by Cllr Kemeny with all in agreement.

Action: MS

CB Cllr Clark said the Covid 19 situation has put businesses on the back foot and warehousing is becoming empty again. Some hasn't even been taken up. She was asked if this this type of thing needed to be factored in? She said the Government haven't altered any rulings as yet so things go forward in the same way. She also thought professional help would be good for Ridgmont.

362: Covid 19:

Cllr spearing gave a short update. The Whats Ap group set up by the Parish Council had proved very useful and a great help to those who needed help. It has now turned into a Village Whats App. It has also helped the mental wellbeing of residents within the village.

There is now a network of helpers.

363. Segenhoe Burial Ground:

Old church burial ground: through Whats App, some of the group had been helping to tidy up the area. The grass has been cut and head stones are now visible. It has given people 'a purpose' during lockdown.

They were all thanked as it has made a big difference,

364. Village Trees:

Some trees as you go out of the village have been hit by aphids. As a resident is having their trees sprayed, they are going to include all of the trees affected at no cost to the village. For which the resident was thanked.

365. Section 106 Play Equipment:

Lapsett/Redlynch quote for safety surfacing is £8,936 + VAT.

The cable on the walkway could do with being replaced - the cost of the cable is £350 and £175.00 for fitting.

We have Section 106 funding of £7,603.63. Lapsett/Redlynch has suggested the payments could be paid in two halves.

Cllr Spearing had completed the application for Ward Funding from CBC but nothing has been heard about the application so Cllr Spearing and CB Cllr Morris will take this further.

Cllr Spearing also went to complete an application form for the Lottery Funding but this coincided with the start of Covid 19 and all grants were diverted to Covid 19 requirements. The next round of applications isn't likely to be until October.

366. Date of Next Meeting: To be agreed.

The Meeting closed at 8.59pm.